

AMENDMENT TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions of claims in the application:

1. (Currently amended) A mounting apparatus for mounting an endless cord which is expandable from a contracted condition to an expanded condition onto an end of a structure having a transverse dimension greater than that of the cord when in the contracted condition, said apparatus comprising a tapered adaptor for the cord to be propelled over onto the end of the structure having a forward smaller end for location in the cord in its contracted condition and a rear larger end for juxtaposing with the end of the structure, said apparatus further comprising an expander device movable relative to the adaptor to propel the cord over the adaptor onto the rear larger end thereof, wherein the adaptor comprises a plurality of circumferentially spaced-apart fingers which extend from the rear larger end towards the forward smaller end and the expander device has a circumference and comprises a plurality of circumferentially spaced-apart arms insertable between the fingers of the adaptor, and wherein ~~all surfaces of each arm projecting from the circumference are exposed, and~~ the inner thickness of each arm tapers **continuously** in a radial direction towards the center of the circumference.

2. (Previously presented) The mounting apparatus as claimed in claim 1, wherein the expander device is operable in a first mode thereof to propel the cord over the adaptor on to the rear larger end thereof and in a second mode thereof to propel the cord from the rear larger end onto the end of the structure.

Claims 3-4 (Cancelled)

5. (Previously presented) The mounting apparatus as claimed in claim 1, wherein the adaptor and the expander device are adapted to mesh with one another to propel the cord over the adaptor to the rear larger end thereof.

6. (Previously presented) The mounting apparatus as claimed in claim 1, wherein the thickness of the circumferentially spaced-apart fingers of the adaptor taper in a radial direction towards the forward smaller end of the adaptor.

7. (Previously presented) The mounting apparatus as claimed in claim 1, wherein the forward smaller end of the adaptor is presented by a central member.
8. (Previously presented) The mounting apparatus as claimed in claim 7, wherein the central member and the fingers of the adaptor are connected to one another.
9. (Previously presented) The mounting apparatus as claimed in claim 2, wherein the expander device includes a tubular section adapted to slide over the adaptor to propel the cord from the rear larger end thereof onto the end of the structure.

Claims 10 – 14 (Cancelled)

15. (Previously presented) A surgical kit comprising a mounting apparatus as claimed in any one of claims 1, 2 or 5-9.
16. (Previously presented) The surgical kit as claimed in claim 15, further comprising a surgical instrument for ligating internal body tissue.
17. (Withdrawn) A method of mounting an endless cord which is expandable from a contracted condition to an expanded condition onto an end of a structure having a transverse dimension greater than that of the cord in its contracted condition comprising the steps of providing a tapered adaptor having a forward smaller end and a rear larger end, propelling the cord over the tapered adaptor onto the rear larger end thereof by displacement of an expander-device relative to the adaptor and, when the rear larger end of the tapered adaptor is juxtaposed to the end of the structure, propelling the cord from the rear larger end of the adaptor onto the end of the structure, wherein said adaptor comprises a plurality of circumferentially spaced-apart fingers which extend from the rear larger end towards the forward smaller end and the expander device comprises a plurality of circumferentially spaced-apart arms insertable between the fingers of the adaptor, and wherein the expander device is first operated in a first mode thereof to propel the cord over the adaptor on to the rear larger end thereof and thereafter in a second mode thereof to propel the cord from the rear larger end onto the end of the structure.

18. (Withdrawn) The method as claimed in claim 17, wherein the arms of the expander device are tapering in a radial direction towards the center.

Claims 19-21 (Cancelled)